



Martha's Vineyard Commission

2013 Annual Report

In 2013, the MVC worked with Island towns to complete a Housing Needs Assessment, to identify how to reduce the high nitrogen levels that are damaging our coastal ponds, to draft regulations to reduce excessive use of nitrogen-based fertilizers, and to prepare a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan aimed at reducing future damage by preparing for storms and other natural disasters. It also worked on many other projects dealing with transportation, coastal planning, and community and economic development. Thirty five development projects were referred to the MVC for regulatory review.

The seventeen-member Commission is made up of nine Commissioners elected bi-annually to represent the public, and eight appointees – one each by the Governor, County Commission, and the six Vineyard Boards of Selectmen. The Commission is supported by a professional staff of ten. More detail is provided below and is available on the Commission's website: www.mvcommission.org.

ISLAND-WIDE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The MVC supports a variety of affordable housing efforts.

- **Housing Needs Assessment:** The MVC facilitated the preparation of a Housing Needs Assessment for Martha's Vineyard, working with consultant Karen Sunnarborg and a Study Committee made up of appointed representatives from each Island town, the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority, and the MVC. The assessment consists of:
 - Town and Island-Wide Economic and Demographic Profiles to quantify the current and projected housing needs;
 - Organizational Capacity of existing housing organizations, projects, and programs; and
 - Recommendations for long term financially sustainable community housing policies, programs, and projects, to best leverage community assets and resources.MVC staff presented the results of the Housing Needs Assessments to Town Boards of Selectmen, Affordable Housing Committees, and Planning Boards.
- **Community Development Block Grants:** The MVC assisted five towns' Boards of Selectmen with FY2014 Department of Housing and Community Development's CDBG Applications by drafting Community Development Strategies. The MVC also worked with town administrators to gather supplemental materials and coordinate public hearings for FY2014 CDBG Applications (prepared by Bailey Boyd Associates). In its ten years, this program

provided almost 18 million dollars of forgivable zero-interest loans to about 350 income-qualified homeowners for critical home renovations, and about 100 childcare subsidies.

COASTAL, OCEAN, AND HAZARD PLANNING

The MVC works with towns on planning coastal areas, ocean conservation and development and mitigating natural hazards that threaten the Island.

- **Sea-Level Rise and Climate Change:** MVC staff investigated impacts of sea-level rise and climate change. This included town-by-town vulnerability assessments mapping of the impacts of 1.5 and 5.0 foot rises in sea level and identifying the need to prepare for impacts, particularly to infrastructure. MVC staff prepared site-specific visualizations of the 1.5' and 5' projections, including flood conditions in familiar locations.
- **FIRM Maps:** MVC staff participated with FEMA staff and local stakeholders to update the FIRM maps associated with the National Flood Insurance program and to present the results to the public when the draft maps were released. MVC staff continues with outreach to prepare authorities and the public to incorporate the new maps, due to be adopted through the 2015 Town Meetings.
- **Hazard Management:** The MVC worked with the seven Dukes County emergency managers on an update of the Dukes County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, which must be renewed to keep the towns eligible for FEMA funding of mitigation measures. The MVC created maps and a vulnerability assessment for all Island towns identifying hazards including sea-level rise, flooding, fire, and hurricane.
- **Ocean Advisory Commission:** The MVC Coastal Planner is the Governor's appointed representative for the MVC on the OAC, which is involved in the evolution of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan.
- **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:** MVC staff reviewed and provided extensive comments on a number of complex matters concerning leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf.
- **No Discharge Designation:** MVC completed working with the towns and the Commonwealth to successfully secure federal No Discharge Designation for Vineyard waters.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Commission's mandate includes promoting a sound local economy and community character.

- **Downtown Revitalization:** MVC staff is assisting the Town of Oak Bluffs in a comprehensive Downtown Revitalization effort that started in 2013 and is ongoing.
- **Community Planning:** MVC staff provided technical assistance to Chilmark in drafting a new residential bylaw to ensure that new buildings harmonize with community character by requiring project review for large projects and setting upper floor space limits. Staff also provided technical assistance to Oak Bluffs with respect to drafting a Minimum Property Maintenance By-Law and to Oak Bluffs and West Tisbury for its Master Plan revision.
- **ArtsMV:** MVC staff provided support to the Martha's Vineyard Arts and Culture Collaborative on a number of initiatives to help stimulate the Vineyard economy, especially in the off-season.

The MVC was lead grant-writer in funding a two-year effort to make October's Fall for the Arts a permanent and important part of the Vineyard calendar of events, working in collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod, and Nantucket Chambers of Commerce. Last year's successful festival was made up of a wide variety of activities including a Creative Economy Speaker Series. The MVC also assisted the Town of Tisbury in applying for state designation of the Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District.

- **Data Collection and Outreach:** The MVC provides the towns, business community and public with economic and demographic information from federal and state sources and with legislative updates and information about federal and state programs, grant opportunities, and workshops relating to economic development or tourism. Each year, MVC staff responds to more than 400 requests for economic and demographic information from town boards, businesses, individuals and non-profit organizations. The MVC also serves as an affiliate to the state's Data Center through the UMASS's Donahue Institute.
- **State and Federal Programs:** The MVC, the South Eastern Economic Development Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Cape and Islands Workforce Investment Board worked together to implement state Economic and Workforce Development Initiatives. MVC staff also worked with the Healthy Aging Task Force, including providing data supporting this effort. The MVC and Dukes County Commission hosted two workshops for town officials on funding opportunities: USDA's Rural Development Office's grant programs for economic development and affordable housing initiatives, and the state's Community Innovation Challenge and the Downtown Initiative grant programs.

GIS

The MVC geographic information systems staff provides spatial analysis and cartographic production to aid MVC and town planning efforts, including custom cartographic services to towns, organizations, and individuals.

- **Data Updates and Distribution:** The MVC maintains and continuously updates a county-wide GIS data warehouse and provides data to towns, consulting groups working on town projects, academics conducting research, state agencies, and local residents. Some of the regional data updated last year included town zoning and overlay zones, road codes, and structure footprints with year-built information. Deer population density maps were produced for Island Boards of Health and shared at a Lyme Disease public information session. MassGIS contracted with the MVC to continue the State's efforts at establishing a database of unique addresses for all structures within the state, to assist emergency responders.
- **GIS/Mapping Software Installation, Training, and Support:** MVC staff provided technical support for the County's Island-wide GIS software contract, including installation of a basic dataset. All Island towns and the MVC are partners in this agreement providing unlimited GIS software licensing at a fixed fee. Technical support to towns included software installs, on-site training, twice-monthly GIS how-to sessions, and technical support via phone and email.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVC is responsible for transportation planning on the Vineyard, in association with the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

- **Joint Transportation Committee:** The Commission facilitates the JTC, made up of appointees from each town and the County, to coordinate transportation planning.
- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects:** A construction contract was awarded for the \$38 million Lagoon Pond Drawbridge project, for which the MVC facilitated the design committee, and construction is underway. The Vineyard gets annual federal and state funding for transportation improvement projects, coordinated and scheduled by the JTC. Construction on the Oak Bluffs roundabout was complete enough for summer 2013 operations, with the final paving and landscaping wrapped up last fall. The MVC worked with the Town of West Tisbury and MassDOT on the design of the next TIP-funded project, the realignment of the intersection of State Road and Old County Road.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:** MVC staffs an advisory committee to the JTC and the wider community on bicycling and pedestrian matters. Staff and the committee worked closely with local Mass in Motion initiatives involving Safe Routes to School. The committee provided input for prioritizing resurfacing improvements to the State Forest's shared use paths. MassBike personnel were brought to the Island to review the state bicycle law with police chiefs. MassBike also facilitated sessions with the advisory committee examining how the committee might be reconstituted to be more effective.
- **Trails Planning:** A portion of the MVC Senior Planner's time is contracted with the Land Bank to work with towns and landowners to protect and extend the Island's trail network.
- **Data Collection:** During 2013, the MVC conducted automatic traffic recording counts at 47 locations including 10 on Shared Use Paths, and performed 20 Turning Movement Counts. Staff conducted extensive parking and circulation surveys of downtown Vineyard Haven in anticipation of a future transportation study.

WATER QUALITY

The Commission continued its scientific and community work helping to protect the Vineyard's water quality and especially our threatened coastal ponds.

- **Massachusetts Estuaries Project:** The Commonwealth's MEP carries out detailed modeling to indicate the extent of water quality problems in coastal ponds and help identify the most cost-effective way to solve them. The MVC provides extensive water-quality testing and land use data analysis as a basis for the MEP studies. Last year, the Commission compiled detailed land use data for Oyster Pond. The MVC also collected groundwater elevations for Katama Bay, Pocha Pond, Cape Pogue, Squibnocket, Menemsha, and the Upper and Lower Chilmark Pond watersheds. MVC staff compiled parcel data on land use (zoning, year-round versus seasonal use, number of buildings, tie-ins to town water and sewers, water usage, number of potential future buildings). The MEP presented its final report for Oak Bluffs Harbor and Tisbury Great Pond. MVC staff worked with the joint Sengekontacket Pond Committee, the Lagoon Pond Committee, and the Tisbury Wastewater Committee to devise plans to address excess nitrogen.

- **Fertilizer Controls:** In early 2013 the MVC and towns were notified of the state legislature's impending statewide fertilizer regulations and a limited window of opportunity for the towns to enact local fertilizer regulations as a low-cost tool to combat excess nitrogen in Vineyard coastal ponds. Boards of Health asked MVC staff with help in creating Vineyard-based regulations, required by the state to be adopted through the DCPC process. The Tisbury Board of Health Chairman and the MVC Senior Planner co-chaired a working group of 15 town and MVC officials, business people, and non-profit experts with an interest in water quality. They met intensively in the fall to draft Vineyard-base regulations of lawn fertilizer use that town Boards of Health will hold public hearings on in 2014.
- **Water Testing:** MVC staff took water samples of Katama, Pocha, Cape Pogue, Tisbury Great Pond, Oyster Pond, and Mill Brook, and assisted sampling of Edgartown Great and Chilmark Ponds.
- **Water Alliance and Associations:** The MVC Water Planner is an active participant in the Martha's Vineyard Water Alliance and all Island pond advisory committees.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- **Wind Energy:** The MVC, towns and Tribe are members of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management: Massachusetts Task Force providing input into the federal government's plans for developing large offshore wind farms south of the Vineyard. MVC staff reviewed and provided extensive comments on a number of complex matters concerning leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf.
- **Municipal Composting:** The MVC assisted the M.V. Refuse Disposal District in scoping and drafting a grant application to fund containerized composting at its facility to accommodate changing requirements for disposing of food waste.

COLLABORATION

The Commission facilitates collaboration on many fronts.

- **Education and Training:** The Commission hosted several courses and information sessions on topics of interest to town officials, the business community, and members of the general public including *Creating a Master Plan*, *Stormwater Management*, and *Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) Updates*. MVC staff participated in the *Living Local* event and the state's *Fifth Annual Conference on Regionalization*.
- **Island Collaboration:** The MVC facilitates meetings of town boards and other organizations to foster exchange of information and collaboration, such as the Joint Affordable Housing Group and the Island Conservation Commissions.
- **Inter-Regional Collaboration:** As an active member of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies, the MVC Executive Director meets monthly to discuss legislation and funding programs with senior Commonwealth officials, and to collaborate on many fronts.
-

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

- **DRIs:** The Commission's review of Developments of Regional Impact generally results in considerable improvements to projects to mitigate their environmental, traffic, and other impacts. Last year, 35 projects were reviewed in some manner by the MVC, 10 were full DRIs reviewed with public hearings and approved with conditions (one of which was a Discretionary Referral that was accepted for DRI Review) and 1 was a full DRI that was denied. Six were minor modifications of existing DRI's that were approved and remanded back to their towns without DRI public hearing review, 1 was a project referred to the MVC for concurrence review that was sent back to the town without DRI public hearing review, 3 were previously approved DRI's returning to LUPC for approval of aspects of their plans, 1 project was granted an extension, 1 project was withdrawn before any decision was made, 3 were referred but were deemed by LUPC to not trigger the DRI Checklist and were sent back to their town and 1 was referred as a Discretionary Referral which was later withdrawn by the referring board. Two applications are on hold at the applicant's request and 6 are still under review.
- **DRI Checklist:** A revised DRI Checklist, which determines which projects are referred by towns to the MVC for review, went into effect in 2013, and was presented to each town Planning Board. An online interactive parcel map was produced that indicates which DRI trigger may be activated on a given parcel.
- **DCPCs:** Districts of Critical Planning Concern are designated by the Commission to afford additional protection to sensitive areas, supporting special town regulations. In 2013, the MVC continued in litigation regarding the Special Ways in Edgartown.

FINANCES

The Commission's FY2013 income was \$1,256,500, of which 65% came from town assessments, 32% from grants and contracts, and 3% from other sources. Expenses were \$1,280,939 of which 55% was for salaries, 25% for salary-related costs, 7% for legal fees, and 13% for other expenses. The annual audit by an independent auditor showed fiscal soundness. The budget and audited financial statements are on the website.

COMMISSIONERS

Clarence Trip Barnes	Tisbury elected Member-at-large
John Breckenridge	Oak Bluffs elected Member-at-large
Christina Brown	Chairman of PED Committee, Edgartown elected Member-at-large
Tim Carroll	appointed by the Chilmark Board of Selectmen
Madeline Fischer	Edgartown elected Member-at-large
Erik Hammarlund	West Tisbury elected Member-at-large
Fred Hancock	Chairman, appointed by the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen
James Joyce	appointed by the Edgartown Board of Selectmen
Joan Malkin	appointed by the Chilmark Board of Selectmen
Jim Miller	appointed by the Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Kathy Newman	appointed by the Aquinnah Board of Selectmen

Camille Rose	Aquinnah elected Member-at-large
Doug Sederholm	Chilmark elected Member-at-large
Linda Sibley	West Tisbury elected Member-at-large
Brian Smith	Clerk-Treasurer, Chairman of Land Use Planning Committee, appointed by the West Tisbury Board of Selectmen
Ned Orleans	appointed by the Tisbury Board of Selectmen
Josh Goldstein	Tisbury elected Member-at-large
Lenny Jason	appointed by the County of Dukes County

STAFF

Mark London	Executive Director
Sheri Caseau	Water Resources Planner
Christine Flynn	Economic Development and Affordable Housing
Paul Foley	DRI Coordinator
Priscilla Leclerc	Transportation Planner
Chris Seidel	GIS Coordinator
Jo-Ann Taylor	Coastal Planner and DCPC Coordinator
Bill Veno	Senior Planner
Curt Schroeder	Administrator
Donna Stewart	Administrative Assistant

TOWN ACTIVITIES

In addition to the efforts described above, assisting the whole Island or all of the towns, the MVC undertook the following activities in each town.

AQUINNAH

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Aquinnah Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2014 CDBG Grant Application.
- **Housing Needs Assessment:** MVC staff presented the final report to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Affordable Housing Committee.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** The MVC provided the Assessor's office with updated mapping software and maps for specific projects.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI:** No projects were referred or reviewed as DRI's from Aquinnah in 2013.
- **Districts of Critical Planning Concern:** The MVC worked with the Town to consider an update to the Town of Aquinnah District regulations. After careful consideration, the proposal was withdrawn.

Staff Liaison

- MVC Coastal Planner and DCPC Coordinator Jo-Ann Taylor is the main staff liaison with the Aquinnah Planning Board.

CHILMARK

Coastal Planning

- **Squibnocket:** MVC staff participated in planning for the future of Squibnocket Beach and the access to adjacent private property. The Selectmen released a plan for public input in the fall.

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Chilmark Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2014 CDBG Grant Application. Staff continues to assist Chilmark with formalizing their Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committees in conformance with state guidelines. Staff provided the Chilmark Affordable Housing Committee with model zoning by-laws to promote affordable housing. Staff also presented the MV Housing Needs Assessment to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Affordable Housing Committee
- **Economic & Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board.
- **Grants:** MVC staff assisted the Town Administrator with information on the state's Community Innovation Challenges Grants and MA Downtown Initiative as well as USDA grant opportunities

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** The MVC produced maps to aid Chilmark's grant application for invasive species eradication within Squibnocket Pond. Maps were also produced for the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board to assist with buildout and sea-level rise planning. The Board of Health GIS software program was updated.

Transportation

- **Menemsha Parking:** MVC staff met with Town officials and developed potential configuration options and a parking sketch plan for the Menemsha area. The MVC assisted with staff effort to provide the town options for addressing parking and circulation issues during peak periods in Menemsha.

- **Beetlebung Corner:** MVC staff reviewed suggestions for improving pedestrian circulation and road crossings near Beetlebung Corner, offered new ones, and assisted with a MassDOT site visit with town representatives to examine options.
- **Data Collection:** The MVC provided a summary of counts on North Road and Middle Road to the Town for consideration with the proposed South Road closing while the President is in residence.

Water Quality

- **Tisbury Great Pond:** The MVC received a grant from the Tisbury Great Pond Riparian Owners association for water quality sampling in Tisbury Great Pond targeted to the time period before and after an inlet is opened to the ocean. During 2013, four rounds of samples were collected from July through November. A total of twenty-four samples were collected from the Pond to assess changes in nitrogen concentration and salinity that will be used by the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) to determine the flushing characteristics of the system.
- **Chilmark Pond:** MVC staff processed six samples from the Pond to be used by the MEP to assess changes in nitrogen concentration and salinity. Staff assisted MEP staff in the deployment of tide gauge to determine the flushing characteristics of the system.
- **Mill Brook:** The MVC worked with the Mill Brook Committee and the RFP Committee to develop a 604b proposal guideline and evaluation for the Mill Brook Watershed. This stream is a major contributor of fresh water and the nutrients it carries to Tisbury Great Pond.
- **Community Assistance:** The MVC Water Resource Planner serves as technical advisor to the Squibnocket Ponds District Advisory Committee and the Tisbury Great Pond Riparian owners.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI:** There was one project in Chilmark referred to the MVC in 2013 for DRI Review. The proposal by Zach Wiesner to add one last lot to the Wiesner Subdivision (DRI 80-M5) was voted a minor modification that was remanded back to the Town without a DRI public hearing.

Staff Liaison

- MVC Executive Director Mark London is the main staff liaison with the Chilmark Planning Board.

EDGARTOWN

Affordable Housing and Economic Development

- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Edgartown Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2014 CDBG Grant Application for about \$800,000. MVC continued to work with the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee's outline of goals, objectives, roles, and responsibilities.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** MVC staff continued to GPS the shoreline at Wasque Point throughout the year and prepare a series of shoreline change maps. At the County's request, MVC GPSed the beach entry paths at State Beach (aka Bend-in-the-Road Beach). The Conservation Commission was provided shoreline change maps for the Lighthouse Beach and Fuller Beach areas.

Harbor Planning

- **Edgartown Harbor Plan:** MVC staff serves as the Edgartown Harbor Planning Representative to the Massachusetts Secretariat of Energy and Environmental Affairs. MVC staff assisted the Edgartown Harbor Planning Group to prepare for update and renewal of the Edgartown Harbor Plan.

Hazard Mitigation

- **Dock St. Sewer Station:** The Town was awarded \$474,000 in hazard mitigation funds as 75% of the cost to floodproof the Dock St. sewer pump station. These funds are available through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan prepared by MVC and local staff.

Transportation

- **Bike Path Crossing:** The MVC provided maps and comments to the Edgartown Highway Superintendent of a potential bike path crossing realignment at the southern end of Barnes Road.
- **Trails Planning:** MVC staff met with Edgartown Byways Committee on protection of trails and obtained approval from Conservation Commission for an elevated boardwalk to advance development of a new trail.
- **TIP Project:** MVC staff worked with the Edgartown Highway Superintendent to identify potential improvements to the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road including bus stops, improvements to the bicycle path, and more vegetation. This included discussions and a site visit with MassDOT.
- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted traffic counts at 13 locations in Edgartown, including 5 on Shared Use Paths.

Water Quality

- **Water Sampling:** In cooperation with the Edgartown Shellfish Warden, water quality samples and on-station field data were collected from Katama, Cape Pogue, Pocha Pond and Oyster Pond. Assistance was given in water sample collection and field data collection in Edgartown Great Pond. These data form a baseline understanding of the ponds and help determine whether the water quality goals from the Massachusetts Estuaries Project's study are achieved.
- **Coastal Ponds:** MVC staff is assisting the Planning Board and the Edgartown Ponds Advisory Committee to identify and evaluate options to achieve the nitrogen reduction called for by the MEP for the great ponds. The MVC worked with the Joint Edgartown and Oak Bluffs Sengekontacket Committee to identify potential areas for sewerage and to compile a list of recommendations from the MEP study that were presented to the Selectmen. The Water Resources Planner also participates in the Friends of Sengekontacket, Chappaquiddick Island Association, Edgartown Shellfish, and the Vineyard Golf Club Review Committee.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI:** Of the three Edgartown projects reviewed in 2013, one was a full DRI approved with conditions (Houlahan Subdivision), and two were minor modifications remanded back to the Town without a hearing (Chadwick Inn and Field Club Affordable Housing). No application was denied. The NSTAR Poles Expansion, including new poles in Edgartown, was referred by the Tisbury Board of Selectmen as a Discretionary Referral, was accepted, and was approved with conditions.

- **Legal Defense of Special Ways:** The MVC continued to defend the Edgartown Special Ways through litigation.

Staff Liaison

- MVC Senior Planner Bill Veno is the main staff liaison with the Edgartown Planning Board.

OAK BLUFFS

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Grants:** MVC staff worked with the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2014 CDBG Grant Application for approximately \$1,000,000. MVC staff assisted the Town Administrator with information on the state's Community Innovation Challenges Grants and MA Downtown Initiative as well as USDA grant opportunities.
- **Downtown Revitalization:** MVC Staff assisted Town Administrator with a Business Inventory and participated in DHCD's Peer-to-Peer review in preparation for Oak Bluffs Downtown Revitalization Initiative
- **Zoning:** MVC Staff assisted Town Administrator with drafting a Minimum Property Maintenance By-law for the B-1 and B-2 Business Districts in Oak Bluffs.
- **Housing Needs Assessment:** MVC staff presented the MV Housing Needs Assessment to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Affordable Housing Committee.
- **Economic and Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board Community Preservation Committee, and Conservation Commission
- **Oak Bluffs Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Group:** MVC staff served as liaison to the Oak Bluffs Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Group.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** At the County's request, the MVC mapped the beach entry paths at State Beach and provided hard copy maps of the data. Maps to support various grant applications for the Town were produced. Mapping support was also provided to several offices: detailed maps of the proposed Medical Marijuana District for the Planning Board; maps for the Open Space Plan Report, data analysis for Sengekontacket abutters, and town-wide vegetation community summary for the Conservation Commission; and maps to assist with pre-planning efforts for the July 4th Fireworks and Illumination Night for the police and fire departments.
- **Software Support:** MVC staff provided ArcGIS software installation to the Oak Bluffs Town Hall.

Transportation

- **Roundabout:** The construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Barnes and the Edgartown – Vineyard Haven Roads (the Blinker) was operational for the summer season with the final paving, markings and landscaping completed in fall 2013.

- **Drawbridge:** The MVC facilitates the Lagoon Pond Drawbridge Committee. The project was advertised for construction by MassDOT, and construction is underway.
- **Transportation Improvement Program Project:** MVC staff is working with the Town and MassDOT in planning possible resurfacing and other improvements to the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, to be financed with federal and state funds.
- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted automatic traffic recording counts at 17 locations, and performed 9 Turning Movement Counts in Oak Bluffs during 2013.
- **Other Transportation Technical Assistance:** MVC staff met with Roads and Byways Committee on refining traffic control measures relating to making portions of Dukes County Avenue one-way. Staff met with CDC to review conceptual plans for extending shared use paths to perimeter of downtown and provided comments to Town Administrator regarding a draft RFP soliciting further design and engineering of such paths.
- **Trail Planning:** MVC staff provided a trail management agreement to Oak Bluffs Selectmen for the Land Bank to maintain the existing trail behind the YMCA extending between Barnes and County Roads.

Water Quality

- **Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP):** MVC staff continues to meet with Oak Bluffs officials to review the MEP Lagoon Pond and Sengekontacket study findings and discuss options. MVC staff is also meeting with the Friends of Farm Pond on the Tidal Restoration Project to implement the MEP recommendations. MVC staff also meets with Friends of Sengekontacket to discuss options for improving water quality in the Pond.
- **Community Assistance:** The MVC Water Resource Planner is an active member of the Joint Sengekontacket Committee, the Lagoon Pond Committee, and the Friends of Sengekontacket.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI:** Of the 8 Oak Bluffs projects referred to the MVC in 2013: 1 was a full DRI that was denied (Nova Vida Alliance Church Expansion); 1 was a minor modification remanded back to the Town without a public hearing (O.B. Fishing Pier Modification); 1 was a Concurrence Review that was remanded back to the Town without a public hearing (Giniewicz Expansion); 2 were previously approved DRI's returning to LUPC for approval of aspects of their plan (Verizon Wireless permission to go on the M.V. Arena Cell Tower and MVTV for the landscape plan); 1 was a Discretionary Referral that was then withdrawn by the Town referring board (M.V. Sharks Lighting at High School Field); and two are still going through the DRI Process (Cottage City Bowling and Lagoon Ridge Subdivision).
- **DCPC:** The MVC heard and approved amendments to the Oak Bluffs Coastal District regulations. The amendments clarify some septic and building addition issues that needed tightening.

Staff Liaison

- Economic Development and Affordable Housing Planner Christine Flynn is the main staff liaison with the Oak Bluffs Planning Board.

TISBURY

Coastal Planning

- **Comcast Cable:** The MVC staff continued to participate in Commonwealth, MVC and local review of the cable proposed by Comcast to land on West Chop.

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

- **Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District:** MVC staff assisted the Board of Selectmen to apply for a state-designated cultural district. Staff worked with the town and business community by helping: facilitate two stakeholder meetings and a BOS Public Hearing, conduct a business inventory, and finalize the application.
- **Affordable Housing:** The MVC worked with the Tisbury Board of Selectmen to draft a Community Development Strategy for FY 2014 CDBG Grant Application Staff continues to assist Tisbury with formalizing their Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committees in conformance with state guidelines. MVC staff provided a draft outline of goals and objectives as well as roles and responsibilities for the Tisbury Affordable Housing Committee's review.
- **Housing Needs Assessment:** MVC staff presented the final report to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Affordable Housing Committee.
- **Economic & Demographic Data Updates:** The MVC provided specific economic and demographic information to the Planning Board.

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** The MVC's GIS staff worked with the Shellfish Department to GPS several areas, produce maps of the data, and install the mapping software at the Shellfish Department's office. The GIS staff also worked with the business community to produce the Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District Map.

Transportation

- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects:** MVC staff participated in discussions and a site visit with MassDOT and the Tisbury DPW to discuss potential improvements to the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, to be financed by the state and federal government. The Town DPW, MassDOT, MVC staff, and a design consultant have started working together to outline design options for the reconstruction of Beach Road between Wind's Up and Five Corners.
- **Water Street Parking Lot:** MVC staff participated actively in the planning of the Water Street Parking Lot.
- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted automatic traffic recording (ATR) counts at 14 locations, and performed 9 Turning Movement Counts (TMCs) in Tisbury during 2013. MVC staff also carried out parking and ferry surveys in Vineyard Haven in conjunction with the DRI

review of the proposed Stop & Shop store and in anticipation of a possible future downtown transportation study.

Water Quality

- **Lagoon Pond:** MVC staff is meeting with the Tisbury Wastewater Committee and Oak Bluffs town officials to review the Lagoon Pond MEP study findings and discuss options.
- **Tisbury Channel Dredging:** Together with other members of the Tisbury Dredge Committee, the MVC Water Resource Planner worked on a proposal for eelgrass mitigation of dredge spoils of Tashmoo Channel and monitors the nourishment of beaches of the dredge spoils from the inner harbor dredging. Dredging began in December 2013.
- **Wastewater Management:** Staff meets regularly with the Tisbury Wastewater Planning Committee to review the case study results and implications and to assist the committee in scoping of consultant work to prepare for the installation of WICK leaching and planned expansion of the wastewater treatment capability.
- **Community Involvement:** The MVC Water Resource Planner participates on the Tisbury Wastewater Advisory Committee and the Tisbury Dredge Committee.

Regulatory Activities

DRI: Of the 13 Tisbury projects referred to the MVC in 2013, 6 were full DRI's approved with conditions (10 State Road, Barnes Evelyn Way, Comcast/NSTAR Cable, Tisbury Wharf Dredge, NSTAR Poles, & Fosdick Rymes); 2 were minor modifications remanded back to the Town without a public hearing (Island Fuels second floor, Comcast/NSTAR Modification to HDD); 1 was non-concurrence (Demolition of Packer Building); 1 was granted an extension (Vineyard House); 1 is still in progress (Stop & Shop; 2 are on hold (Vineyard Assembly of God lighting and Island Fuels Repair Shop); and none were denied

Staff Liaison

- MVC Executive Director Mark London is the main staff liaison with the Tisbury Planning Board.

WEST TISBURY

Affordable Housing and Economic Development

- MVC staff provided a draft outline of goals and objectives as well as roles and responsibilities for the West Tisbury Affordable Housing Committee's review.
- Presented the MV Housing Needs Assessment to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Affordable Housing Committee
- The MVC provided economic and demographic information to the Planning Board and Board of Health

Geographic Information Systems

- **Mapping:** MVC staff assisted the Planning Board with a variety of maps to aid planning efforts. Maps showing the Mill Pond area and aerial photographs were supplied to the Mill Pond working group.
- **Cemetery Mapping:** MVC staff completed mapping the cremation section of the Lambert's Cove cemetery using GPS to locate all headstones present in this area. This data was delivered

to the Town's cemetery consultant for inclusion in their software deliverable to the Town of West Tisbury.

- **Software Support:** MVC staff provided ArcGIS software installation to the West Tisbury Town Hall.

Coastal Management

- **Middle Line Path:** MVC staff continued to support the Conservation Commission in defense of its denial of a project to armor coastal bank on the shore of Tisbury Great Pond and, in 2013, the Town prevailed in its defense.

Transportation

- **Data Collection:** The MVC conducted automatic traffic recording (ATR) counts at three locations in West Tisbury during 2013.
- **MVC Intern:** The MVC 2013 summer transportation intern was Nick Gross of West Tisbury.

Water Quality

- **Water Testing:** In cooperation with the West Tisbury Selectmen, Conservation Commission and the Riparian Owners Association, MVC staff carried out water sampling of the Tisbury Great Pond, collecting four rounds (24 samples) from July through November to assess changes in nitrogen concentration and salinity. This data will be used by the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) to determine the flushing characteristics of the system.
- **Massachusetts Estuaries Project:** The final report for the Tisbury Great Pond was completed and presented to town boards and members of the public in August.
- **Mill Brook:** The MVC worked with the Mill Brook Committee and the RFP Committee. Staff worked to develop a 604b proposal guideline for the Mill Brook Watershed. This stream is a major contributor of fresh water and the nutrients it carries to Tisbury Great Pond.

Regulatory Activities

- **DRI:** Of the 8 West Tisbury projects referred to the MVC in 2013, 2 were full DRI's approved with conditions (Verizon Cell Tower and Fuller Landscaping Containers); 1 was a minor modification remanded back to the Town without a public hearing (Plum Bush Point A.H. lot); 1 was a previously approved DRI returning to LUPC for approval of the landscape plan (Sepiessa Affordable Housing); 1 was withdrawn (Nagy Personalized Medicine at Hart Property); 3 were sent back to the Town because they did not trigger the DRI Checklist (ITT Cell Tower at Airport; Bick Bookbinding; and Nagy Personalized Medicine at Yoga Barn); and none were denied.

Staff Liaison

- Senior Planner Bill Veno is the main staff liaison with the West Tisbury Planning Board.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

P.O.BOX 1447 • 33 NEW YORK AVENUE • OAK BLUFFS • MA • 02557
508.693.3453 • FAX: 508.693 7894 •
INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG • WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG

REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY OF DUKES COUNTY
SERVING AQUINNAH, CHILMARK, EDGARTOWN, GOSNOLD, OAK BLUFFS, TISBURY, & WEST TISBUR